(c) what action Government is contemplating against the private operator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary the seating capacity at airport has been increased. About 1000 sofa-seats and chairs have been installed.

(c) Does not arise.

Shutting down of ATC at Mumbai Airport

1494. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an Airport Traffic Control (ATC) shut down for 10 minutes on the 3rd October, 2007 leading to chaos and dangerous scenario at Mumbai airport as reported in media recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government will take to ensure that such scenario does not re-occur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The power supply to Automation System was affected for the one minute on 3.10.2007 and immediately after that the restoration was done. Due to no power imput, the computers used for Automation System went off. After restoration of power supply, the computers were rebooted which took about 12 minutes. Thus the systems was restored in 13 minutes. Other Communication, Navigational and Radar facilities were working normal during the period.

(c) Power supply problem has been investigated and short term/long term corrective measures have already been initiated and they are under implementation.

Encroachments at Hyderabad Airport

1495. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal encroachments on land of the existing Hyderabad airport are hampering its proposed expansion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such expansion of the existing airport is necessary to withstand the competition from new upcoming airport;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite repeated correspondence to the State Government from the Centre, the encroachments still persist;

(d) whether the steps taken by the State Government in clearing the encroachment is adequate; and

(e) if not, what further steps are being considered by the Centre/

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In view of the decision to discontinue commercial operations at the existing airport once the new international airport at Shamshabad, Hyderabad, becomes operational there is no proposal to expand the existing Hyderabad airport. However, illegal encroachments do exist on the land of Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the existing Hyderabad airport.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Matter is being pursued by AAI with the State Government in clearing the encroachment.

Diversion of revenues by GMR and DIAL

1496. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GMR Limited and its subsidiary Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) is planning to spin off units handling key businesses in order to divert revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has warned the DIAL and GMR on this move; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the DIAL and GMR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) have set up wholly owned subsidiary companies for real estate development, cargo operations and duty free shops.

(c) and (d) DIAL has been advised to conduct its business strictly under the provisions of Operation Management and Development Agreement (OMDA).

New ground rules at IGI Airport

1497. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made new ground rules to make Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport safer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) why such rules have not been made for other international and important airports in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The following regulations have been brought in at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to prevent occurrence of any vehicular accidents on ground:

(i) All vehicles plying on the airside of the airport are required to be equipped with speed limitation devices. (ii) Drivers must posses Airside Driving Permit (ADP). (iii) Number of vehicles on the airside should be the barest minimum. Movements of staff/crew to the aircraft should be in bus/shuttle service. (iv) Wearing of safety jackets by personnel working on airside is mandatory. (v) Two wheelers are banned and pedestrain movements prohibited on the airside. (vi) CCTVs should be installed inside the airport to monitor Apron and Taxiways. (vii) Space should be earmarked for parking of Ground Handling Equipments. (viii) Directorate General of Civil Aviation along side the airport operator to ensure safety in operations of vehicles, ground handling equipments and movement of aircrafts.

(c) At all airports in the country, the security/safety measures are taken according to ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and NCASTP (National Civil Aviation Security Programme). Constant monitoring of security arrangements is being done to avoid any safety/security lapses.